

Appl. No. 09/955,606
Amdt. Dated October 12, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 13, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

A detailed listing of all the claims that are, or were, in the application is presented below. Current amendments to the claims, including additions being shown by underlining and deletions being shown by strikethrough or double brackets, are expressed in the listing.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 17 (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) A method of mechanically embossing an article comprising applying a recyclable and reusable slurry in a pattern onto a backing, solidifying the slurry, pressing ~~a solidified~~ the slurry into the article to mechanically emboss the article, removing the slurry from the backing and article after embossing the article, and then reclaiming the slurry, ~~the solidified slurry being recyclable and reusable.~~

Claims 19 to 32 (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[31]]~~ 18, wherein the backing is selected from the group consisting of a belt, a drum, a roll, a plate and combinations thereof.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[31]]~~ 18, wherein the slurry is applied by screen printing onto the backing.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[31]]~~ 18, wherein the slurry comprises a filler and a binder.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the binder is biodegradable.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[31]]~~ 18, wherein the slurry is applied in register with a printed pattern on the article.

Claims 38 and 39 (Canceled).

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[31]]~~ 18, wherein the article is chemically embossed.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[31]]~~ 18, further including imparting a differential gloss on the article.

Claim 42 (Canceled).

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the article is a surface covering.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[31]]~~ 18, wherein the article is a surface covering.

Claim 45 (Canceled).

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the solidified slurry is in direct contact with the article when it is pressed into the article.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the portion of the article into which the solidified slurry is pressed is gelled prior to the solidified slurry being pressed.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the portion of the article into which the solidified slurry is pressed is cured prior to the solidified slurry being pressed.

Claims 49 and 50 (Canceled).

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the surface covering is a floor covering.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the surface covering is a floor covering.